

The Letter of James

Faith that works!

Study 1- Introducing James

Introduction

Although it has often been neglected, the letter of James is in fact a very important letter, one which is of particular relevance to the church today. This is of course quite a claim to make, especially since at first glance, the letter seems to be little more than a random collection of pithy statements and instructions about daily life as a Christian. But it is a valid claim, for as I hope we shall discover from our study of the text, James' statements and instructions are by no means taken at random, but are in fact carefully chosen and arranged around a central concern. And this central concern is of the utmost importance for it concerns the need for reality and authenticity in our walk with the Lord. As we shall see, James' central concern is that we have a faith that truly works.

Before plunging into a detailed study of the letter, we do however need to take some time to become familiar both with the content and context of the letter as a whole. That is what this first study is designed to do.

Read James 1:1-2



Investigate

1. How does the author describe himself?

2. To whom was the letter addressed?

Investigate

Read James 1:1-27

The opening chapter of the letter highlights **three** key themes that recur in the letter. In the opening chapter each key theme and its related key words are mentioned twice i.e. they are mentioned in 1:2-11 and repeated in 1:12-27. In the light of your reading, answer the following questions

1. What are the three key themes that recur in James 1:1-27? (list each one with the verse reference/s in the table below)

A.	
B.	
C.	
A.	
B.	
C.	

2. What are the key words that are connected to each of these themes?



Apply

1. In the light of what you have learnt thus far, what do you think the main message of James' letter may be?